

The Washington Star

11 January 1976

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CIA Documents Reveal Training Of Area Officers

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The Central Intelligence Agency has trained officers from at least three metropolitan area police departments to crack safes, conduct burglaries and replaster walls damaged during surreptitious entries and bugging operations, according to agency documents obtained by The Washington Star.

The documents, released by the CIA after a six-month review of a Freedom of Information Act request, also show that nearly every police department in the metropolitan area — many more than previously acknowledged — received CIA training and assistance during the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Several memos indicate that the CIA and the local police wanted their unusual relationships to remain secret, despite inquiries from reporters and members of Congress.

BESIDES THE REVELATION of the extent of CIA activity in local police departments, the chief significance of the assorted documents is that they provide many details about CIA-police relationships described without much elaboration in the Rockefeller Commission report on CIA activities released last June.

CIA officials "sanitized" the 189 documents before releasing them to The Star. Nearly every document contained some deletions, and some were missing entire paragraphs or pages. Another 45 documents requested were not released for security reasons.

The Rockefeller report disclosed that police in the District, Fairfax, and Montgomery, in addition to Chicago, Miami, Los Angeles, New York, and Boston, received training from CIA agents, as did Virginia and Maryland State police.

The newly obtained documents contain information not specifically mentioned in the Rockefeller report that officers from Alexandria, Arlington, Baltimore, Fairfax City, Falls Church and Prince Georges

County police also received training assistance.

Nearly a dozen police departments in California, mostly in the San Diego, San Clemente, Los Angeles area also got CIA training and equipment loans, the documents show